Improvement of rural tele-density in Orissa

1675. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has set up Rs. 6,500 crore rural telephony subsidy and sharing of infrastructure by service providers, to improve rural telephony;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to improve the rural tele-density in Orissa State under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. TRAI has not set up any rural telephone subsidy. However, TRAI in its recommendations "Growth of Telecom Services in Rural India—The way Forward" has recommended support for sharing of infrastructure by service providers to improve rural telephony.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Waiting list for landline and mobile connections of BSNL

1676. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications pending for landline and BSNL mobile connections during the last three years;

(b) the reasons behind the delay in installing landlines and providing mobile connections; and

(c) what steps are being taken to expedite the process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):(a) Sir, number of applications pending for landline and mobile connections of